

including three million dollars in execution of the treaty with Mexico, and including sums paid in account of the public debt, amounts to sixty million one hundred and seventy-two thousand four hundred and one dollar, and including the latter, to seventy-two million nine hundred and forty-eight thousand seven hundred and ninety-two dollars, the payment on this account having amounted to twelve million seven hundred and seventy-six thousand three hundred and ninety dollars.

On the 4th of March, 1853, the amount of the public debt was sixty-nine million one hundred and twenty-nine thousand nine hundred and thirty-seven dollars. There was a subsequent increase of two millions seven hundred and fifty thousand dollars, for the debt of Texas, making a total of seventy-one million eight hundred and seventy-nine thousand nine hundred and thirty-seven dollars. Of this sum of forty-five millions five hundred and twenty-five thousand three hundred and nineteen dollars, including premium, has been discharged—reducing the debt to thirty millions seven hundred and thirty-nine thousand one hundred and twenty-nine dollars; all of which might be paid within a year without embarrassing the public service; but being not yet due, and only redeemable at the option of the holder, cannot be pressed to payment by the government.

On examining the expenditures of the last five years, it will be seen that the average, deducting payments on account of the Public Debt and ten millions paid by treaty to Mexico, has been about forty-eight million dollars. It is believed that under an economical administration of the Government, the average expenditures for the ensuing five years, will not exceed that sum, unless an extraordinary occasion for its increase should occur.

There was a subsequent increase of two million seven hundred and fifty thousand dollars for debt of Texas, making a total of seventy-one million eight hundred and seventy-nine thousand nine hundred and thirty-seven dollars. Of this sum of forty-five millions five hundred and twenty-five thousand three hundred and nineteen dollars, including premium, has been discharged, reducing the debt to thirty millions seven hundred and thirty-nine thousand one hundred and twenty-nine dollars, all of which might be paid within a year without embarrassing the public service, but being not yet due, and only redeemable at the option of the holders cannot be pressed to payment by the Government.

The acts granting bounty lands will soon have been executed, while the extension of our frontier settlements will cause a continued demand for lands and augmented receipts probably from that source.

These considerations will justify a reduction of the revenue from customs so as not to exceed forty-eight or fifty million dollars. I think the exigency for such reduction is imperative and again urge it upon the consideration of Congress. The amount of reduction as well as the manner of effecting it are questions of great and general interest, it being essential to industrial enterprise and the public prosperity as well as the dictate of obvious justice that the burden of taxation be made to rest as equally as possible upon all classes and all sections and interests of the country. I have heretofore commended to your consideration the revision of the revenue laws prepared under the direction of the Secretary of the Treasury, and also legislation upon some special questions affecting business of that department; more especially the enactment of a law to punish the abstraction of official books or papers from the files of the Government, and requiring all such books and papers and all other public property to be turned over by the outgoing officer to his successor; of a law requiring disbursing officers to deposit all public money in the vaults of the Treasury or in other legal depositories where the same are conveniently accessible, and a law to extend existing penal provisions to all persons who may be possessed of public money by deposit or otherwise, and who shall refuse or neglect, on due demand, to pay the same into the Treasury. I invite your attention anew to each of these objects.

The army during the past year has been constantly employed against hostile Indians in various quarters, that it can scarcely be said with propriety of language, to have been a peace establishment. Its duties have been satisfactorily performed, and we have reason to expect, as the result of the year's operations, greater security to the frontier inhabitants than has been hitherto enjoyed. Extensive combinations among the hostile Indians of the Territories of Washington and Oregon at one time threatened the devastation of the newly formed settlements of that remote portion of the country. From recent information we are permitted to hope that the energetic and successful operations conducted there, will prevent such combinations in future, and secure to these territories an opportunity to make steady progress in the development of their agricultural and mineral resources. Legislation has been recommended by me on previous occasions to cure defects in the existing organization, and to increase the efficiency of the army, and further observation has but served to confirm me in the views then expressed and to enforce on my mind the conviction that such measures are not only proper but necessary.

I have in addition, to invite the attention of Congress to a change of the policy in the distribution of troops, and to the necessity of providing a more rapid increase of the military armament. For details of these other subjects relating to the army, I refer to the report of the Secretary of War. The condition of the Navy is not merely satisfactory but exhibits the most gratifying evidences of increased vigor. As it is comparatively small it is more important that it should be efficient in the character of its office, in the zeal and discipline of its men, in the reliability of its ordnance, and in the capacity of its ships. In all these various qualities the Navy has made a great progress within the last few years. The execution of the law of Congress of Feb. 28, 1850, to promote the efficiency of the Navy has been attended with the most advantageous results. The law for promoting discipline among the men is found convenient and salutary.

The system of granting an honorable discharge to faithful seamen on the expiration of the period of their enlistment and permitting them to re-enlist after a leave of absence of a few months, without cessation of pay is highly beneficial in its influence. The apprentice system recently adopted, is evidently destined to incorporate into the service a large number of our countrymen hitherto so difficult to procure. Several hundred American boys are now on a three years' cruise in our national vessels, and will return well trained seamen. In the ordnance department there is a decided and gratifying indication of progress creditable to it and the country. The suggestions of the Secretary of the Navy, in regard to further improvements in that branch of the service, I commend to your favorable action.

The new frigates ordered by Congress are now afloat, and two of them in active service. They are superior models of naval architecture, and with their formidable battery add largely to public strength and security.

I concur in the views expressed by the Secretary of the Department in favor of a still further increase of our naval forces.

The aggregate sales of the public lands, during the last fiscal year, amount to nine million two hundred and twenty-seven thousand eight hundred and seventy-eight acres; for which has been received the sum of eight millions eight hundred and twenty-one thousand four hundred and fourteen dollars. During the same period there have been located, with military scrip and land-warrants, and for other purposes, thirty million one hundred thousand two hundred and thirty acres, thus making a total aggregate of thirty-nine million three hundred and twenty-eight thousand one hundred and eighty acres. On the 30th of September last, surveys had been made of sixteen million eight hundred and seventy-three thousand six hundred and ninety-nine acres, a large proportion of which is ready for market.

The suggestions in this report in regard to the complication and progressive expansion of the business of the different bureaus of the department; to the pension system; in the colonization of Indians, and the recommendations in relation to various improvements in the District of Columbia, are especially commended to your consideration.

The report of the Post Master General presents fully the condition of that department of the government. Its expenditures for the last fiscal year, were ten millions four hundred and seven thousand eight hundred and sixty-eight dollars; and its gross receipts seven millions six hundred and twenty thousand eight hundred and one dollar—making an excess of expenditures over receipts of two millions seven hundred and eighty-eight dollars and eighty cents. The deficiency of this department is three million four hundred and forty thousand dollars greater than that for the year ending June 30, 1853.

Of this deficiency, three hundred and thirty thousand dollars is to be attributed to the additional compensation allowed postmasters by the act of Congress of June 22, 1854. The mail facilities in every part of the country have been very much increased in that period, and the large addition of railroad service, amounting to seven thousand nine hundred and eighty miles, has added largely to the cost of transportation.

The inconsiderable augmentation of the income of the Post Office Department under the reduced rates of postage, and its increasing expenditures, must, for the present, make it dependent to some extent upon the Treasury for support.

The recommendations of the Postmaster General, in relation to the abolition of the franking privilege, and his views on the establishment of mail steamship lines, deserve the consideration of Congress.

I also call the special attention of Congress to the statement of the Postmaster General respecting the sums now paid for the transportation of mails to the Panama Railroad Company, and comment to their early and favorable consideration the suggestions of that officer in relation to new contracts for mail transportation upon that route, and also upon the Tehuantepec and Nicaragua route. The United States continue in the enjoyment of amicable relations with all foreign powers.

When my last annual message was transmitted to Congress, two subjects of controversy, one relating to the enlistment of soldiers in this country for foreign service, and the other to Central America, threatened to disturb good understanding between the United States and Great Britain. Of the progress and termination of the former question you were informed at the time, and the other is now in the way of satisfactory adjustment.

The object of the convention between the United States and Great Britain of the 9th of April, 1850, was to secure for the benefit of all nations, the neutrality and the common use of any transit way, or inter-oceanic communication, across the isthmus of Panama, which might be opened within the limits of Central America. The pretension subsequently asserted by Great Britain, to dominion or control over Territories, in or near two of the routes, those of Nicaragua and Honduras, were deemed by the United States, not merely incompatible with the main object of the treaty, but opposed even to its express stipulations. Occasion of controversy on this point has been removed by an additional treaty, which our minister at London has concluded, and which will be immediately submitted to the Senate for its consideration. Should the proposed supplemental arrangement be concurred in by all the parties to be effected by it, the objects contemplated by the original convention will have been fully attained.

The treaty between the United States and Great Britain, of the 9th of June, 1854, which went into effective operation in 1856, put an end to causes of irritation between the two countries, by securing to the United States the right of fishery on the coast of the British North American provinces, with advantages equal to those enjoyed by British subjects. Besides the signal benefits of this treaty to a large class of our citizens engaged in a pursuit connected to no inconsiderable degree with our national prosperity and strength, it has had a favorable effect upon other interests in the provision it made for reciprocal freedom of trade between the United States and the British provinces in America.

The exports of domestic articles to those provinces during the last year amounted to twenty-two millions of dollars, exceeding those of the preceding year by nearly seven millions of dollars; and the imports therefrom, during the same period, amounted to more than twenty-one millions—an increase of six millions upon those of the previous year.

The improved condition of this branch of our commerce is mainly attributable to the above-mentioned treaty.

Provision was made, in the first article of that treaty, for a commission to designate the mouths of rivers to which the common right of fishery, on the coast of the United States and the British Provinces, was not to extend. This commission has been employed a part of two seasons; but without much progress in accomplishing the object for which it was instituted, in consequence of a serious difference of opinion between the commissioners, not only as to the precise point where the rivers terminate, but in many instances as to what constitutes a river. These difficulties, however, may be overcome by resort to the umpirage provided for by the treaty.

The efforts perseveringly prosecuted since the commencement of my administration, to relieve our trade to the Baltic from the exaction of Sound dues by Denmark, have not yet been attended with success. Other governments have also sought to obtain a like relief to their commerce, and Denmark was thus induced to propose an arrangement to all the European Powers interested in the subject, and the manner in which her proposition was received, warranting her to believe that a satisfactory arrangement with them could soon be concluded, she made a strong appeal to this government for temporary suspension of definite action on its part, in consideration of the embarrassment which might result to her European negotiations by an immediate adjustment of the question with the United States.

This request has been acceded to, upon the condition that the sums collected after the 16th of June last, and until the 16th of June next, from vessels and cargoes belonging to our merchants, are to be considered as paid under protest and subject to future adjustment. There is reason to believe that an arrangement, between Denmark and the maritime powers of Europe on the subject, will be soon concluded, and that the pending negotiation with the United States may then be resumed and terminated in a satisfactory manner.

With Spain no new difficulties have arisen, nor has much progress been made in the adjustment of pending ones.

Negotiations entered into for the purpose of relieving our commercial intercourse with the Island of Cuba of some of its burdens, and providing for the more speedy settlement of local disputes growing out of that intercourse, have not yet been attended with any results.

Soon after the commencement of the late war in Europe, this government submitted to the consideration of all maritime nations, two principles for the security of neutral commerce: one, that the neutral flag should cover enemies' goods, except articles contraband of war; and the other, that neutral property on board merchant vessels of belligerents should be exempt from condemnation, with the exception of contraband articles. These were not presented as new rules of international law; having been generally claimed by neutrals, though not always admitted by belligerents. One of the parties to the war—Russia—as well as several neutral powers, promptly acceded to these propositions; and the two other principal belligerents, Great Britain and France, having consented to observe them for the present occasion, a favorable opportunity seemed to be presented for obtaining a general recognition of them both in Europe and America.

But Great Britain and France, in common with most of the States of Europe, while forbearing to reject, did not affirmatively act upon the overtures of the United States.

While the question was in this position, the representatives of Russia, France, Great Britain, Austria, Prussia, Sardinia and Turkey, assembled at Paris, took into consideration the subject of maritime rights, and put forth a declaration containing the two principles which this government had submitted nearly two years before, to the consideration of maritime powers, and adding thereto the following propositions: "Privateering is and remains abolished," and "Blockades, in order to be binding, must be effective, that is to say, maintained by a force, sufficient really, to prevent access to the coast of the enemy;" and to the declaration thus composed of four points, two of which had already been proposed by the United States, this government has been invited to accede by all the powers represented at Paris, except Great Britain and Turkey.

To the last of the two additional propositions—that in relation to blockades—there can certainly be no objection. It is merely the definition of what shall constitute the effectual investment of a blockaded place, a definition for which this government has always contended, claiming indemnity for losses where a practical violation of the rule thus defined has been injurious to our commerce. As to the remaining article of the declaration of the conference of Paris that "privateering is and remains abolished," I cannot ascribe to the power represented in the conference of Paris, any but liberal and philanthropic views in the attempt to change the unquestionable rule of maritime law in regard to privateering. Their proposition was doubtless intended to imply approval to the principle that private property upon the ocean, although it might belong to the citizens of a belligerent state should be exempt from capture, and had that proposition been framed as to give full effect to the principle, it would have received my ready assent on the part of the United States. But the measure proposed, is inadequate to that purpose. It is true that if adopted, private property upon the ocean would be withdrawn from one mode of plunder, but left exposed, mean-while, to another mode, which could be used with increased effectiveness.

The aggressive capacity of great naval powers would be thereby augmented, while the defensive ability of the others would be reduced. Though the surrender of the means of prosecuting hostilities by employing privateers, as proposed by the conference of Paris, is mutual in terms, yet, in practical effect, it would be the relinquishment of a right of little value to one class of States, but of essential importance to another and a far larger class. It ought not to have been anticipated that a measure, so inadequate to the accomplishment of the proposed object, and so unequal in its operation, would receive the assent of all maritime powers. Private property would be still left to the depredation of the public armed cruisers.

I have expressed a readiness on the part of this government, to accede to the principles contained in the declaration of the conference of Paris, provided that that relating to the abandonment of privateering can be so amended as to effect the object for which, as is presumed, it was intended, the immunity of private property on the ocean from hostile capture.

To effect this object, it is proposed to add to the declaration that "privateering is and remains forever abolished," the following amendment: "And that the private property of subjects or citizens of a belligerent, on the high seas shall be exempt from seizure by the public armed vessels of the other belligerent, except it be contraband." This amendment has been presented not only to the powers which have asked our assent to the declaration to abolish privateering, but to all other civilized States. Thus far it has not been rejected by any, and is favorably entertained by all which have made any communication in reply.

Several of the governments, regarding with favor the proposition of the United States, have delayed definitive action upon it, only for the purpose of consulting with others, parties to the conference of Paris. I have the satisfaction of stating, however, that the Emperor of Russia has entirely and explicitly approved of that modification, and will cooperate in endeavoring to obtain the assent of other powers; and that assurances of a similar purport have been received in relation to the disposition of the Emperor of the French.

The present aspect of this important subject allows us to cherish the hope that a principle so humane in its character, so just and equal in its operation, so essential to the prosperity of commercial nations, and so consonant to the sentiments of this enlightened period of the world, will commend the approbation of all maritime powers, and thus be incorporated in the code of international law.

My views on this subject are more fully set forth in the reply of the Secretary of State, a copy of which is herewith transmitted, to the communications on the subject made to this government, especially to the communication of France.

The government of the United States has at all times regarded with friendly interest the other States of America, formerly, like this country, European colonies, and now independent members of the great family of nations. But the unsettled condition of some of them, distracted by frequent revolutions, and thus incapable of regular and firm internal administration, has tended to embarrass occasionally our public intercourse, by reason of wrongs our citizens suffer at their hands, and which they are slow to redress.

Unfortunately it is against the Republic of Mexico, with which it is our special desire to maintain a good understanding, that such complaints are most numerous; and although earnestly urged upon its attention, they have not as yet received the consideration which this government had a right to expect. While preparation for past injuries has been withheld, others have been added. The political condition of that country, however, has been such as to demand forbearance on the part of the United States. I shall continue my efforts to procure for the wrongs of our citizens that redress which is indispensable to the continued friendly association of the two republics.

The peculiar condition of affairs in Nicaragua in the early part of the present year, rendered it important that this government should have diplomatic relations with that state. Through its territory had been opened one of the principal thoroughfares across the Isthmus connecting North and South America, on which a vast amount of property was transported, and to which our citizens resorted in great numbers, in passing between the Atlantic and Pacific coasts of the United States. The protection of both required that the existing power in that state should be regarded as a responsible government; and its minister was accordingly received. But he remained here only a short time. Soon thereafter the political affairs of Nicaragua underwent unfavorable change, and became involved in much uncertainty and confusion. Diplomatic representations from two contending parties have been recently sent to this government; but, with the imperfect information possessed it was not possible to decide which was the government de facto; and, awaiting further development, I have refused to receive either.

Questions of the most serious nature are pending between the United States and the Republic of New Granada. The government of that republic undertook, a year since, to impose tonnage duties on foreign vessels in her ports, but the purpose was resisted by this government, as being contrary to existing treaty stipulations with the United States, and to rights conferred by charter upon the Panama Railroad Company, and was accordingly relinquished at that time, it being admitted that our vessels were entitled to be exempt from tonnage duty in the free ports of Panama and Aspinwall. But the purpose has been recently revived, on the part of New Granada, by the enactment of a law to subject vessels visiting her ports to the tonnage duty of forty cents per ton; and, although the law has not been put in force, yet the right to enforce it is still asserted, and may at any time, be acted upon by the government of that republic.

The Congress of New Granada, has also enacted a law, during the last year, which levies a tax of more than three dollars on every pound of mail matter transported across the Isthmus. The sum thus required to be paid on the mails of the United States would be nearly two millions of dollars annually, in addition to the Panama Railroad Company. If the only objection to this exaction were the exorbitancy of its amount, it could not be submitted to by the United States.

The imposition of it, however, would obviously contravene our treaty with New Granada, and infringe the contract of that republic with the Panama Railroad Company. The law providing for this tax was, by its terms, to take effect on the first of September last, but the local authorities on the isthmus have been induced to suspend its execution, and to await further instructions from the government of the republic. I am not yet advised of the determination of that government. If a measure so extraordinary in its character, and so clearly contrary to treaty stipulations, and the contract rights of the Panama Railroad Company, composed mostly of American citizens should be persisted in, it will be the duty of the United States to resist its execution.

I regret exceedingly that occasion exists to invite your attention to a subject of still graver import in our relations with the Republic of New Granada. On the fifteenth day of April last, a riotous assemblage of the inhabitants of Panama committed a violent and outrageous attack on the premises of the Railroad Company, and the passengers and other persons in or near the same involving the death of several citizens of the United States, the pillage of many others, and the destruction of a large amount of property belonging to the railroad company. I caused full investigation of that event to be made, and the result shows satisfactorily that complete responsibility for what occurred attaches to the government of New Granada. I have, therefore, demanded of that government that the perpetrators of the wrongs in question should be punished; that provision should be made for the families of citizens of the United States who were killed, and full indemnity for the property pillaged or destroyed.

The present condition of the Isthmus of Panama, is so far as regards the security of persons and property passing over it, requires serious consideration. Recent incidents tend to show that the local authorities cannot be relied on to maintain the public peace of Panama, and there is just cause for apprehension that a portion of the inhabitants are meditating further outrages, without adequate measures for the security and protection of persons or property having been taken either by the State of Panama, or by the general government of New Granada.

Under the guarantee of treaty, citizens of the United States have by an outlay of several millions of dollars, constructed a railroad across the Isthmus, and it has become the main route between our Atlantic and Pacific possessions, and the multitudes of our citizens and a vast amount of property are constantly passing over to the security and protection of all which, and the continuance of the public advantages involved, it is impossible for the government of the United States to be indifferent.

I have deemed the danger of the recurrence of scenes of lawless violence in this quarter, so imminent as to make it my duty to station a part of our naval force in the harbor of Panama and Aspinwall, in order to protect the persons and property of the citizens of the United States in those ports and to insure to them safe passage across the Isthmus. And it would, in my judgement, be unwise to withdraw the naval force now in those ports, until by the spontaneous action of the republic of New Granada or otherwise, some adequate arrangement shall have been made for the protection and security of a line of inter-oceanic communication so important at this time to the United States only, but to all other maritime States both of Europe and America.

Meanwhile, negotiations have been instituted by means of a special commission, to obtain from New Granada full indemnity for injuries sustained by our citizens on the Isthmus, and satisfactory security for the general interests of the United States.

In addressing to you my last annual message, the occasion seemed to me an appropriate one to express my congratulations in view of the peace, greatness, and felicity which the United States now possess and enjoy. To point you to the state of the various departments of the government, and of all the great branches of the public service, civil and military, in order to speak of the intelligence and integrity which pervades the whole, would be to indicate, but imperfectly the administrative condition of the country, and the beneficial effects of that on the general welfare. Nor would it suffice to say that the nation is actually at peace at home and abroad; that its industrial interests are prosperous; that the canvasses of its mariners whiten every sea; and the plough of its husbandmen is marching steadily onward to the bloodless conquest of the continent; that cities and populous States are springing up, as if by enchantment, from the bosom of our western wilds; and that the courageous energy of our people is making of the United States the great republic of the world. These results have not been attained without passing through trials and perils, by experience of which and thus only, nations can be hardened into manhood. Our forefathers were trained to the wisdom which conceived, and the courage which achieved independence, by the circumstances which surrounded them, and they were thus made capable of the creation of the republic. It devolved on the next generation to consolidate the work of the revolution, to deliver the country entirely from the influences of transatlantic partialities or antipathies, which attached to our colonial and revolutionary history, and to organize the practical operation of the constitutional and legal institutions of the Union. To us, of this generation, remains the no less noble task of maintaining and extending the power of the United States. We have, at length, reached that stage of the national career, in which the dangers to be encountered, and the exertions to be made, are the incidents, not of weakness, but of strength. In our foreign relations we have to attempt our power to the less happy condition of other republics in America, and to place ourselves in the calmness and conscious dignity of right by the side of the greatest and wealthiest of the empires of Europe. In our domestic relations, we have to guard against the shock of the discontents, the ambitious, the interests, and the exuberant, and, therefore, sometimes irregular impulses, of opinion or of action, which are the natural product of the present political elevation, the self reliance and the restless spirit of enterprise of the people of the United States.

I shall prepare to surrender the Executive trust to my successor, and retire to private life with sentiments of profound gratitude to the good Providence which, during the period of my administration, has vouchsafed to carry the country through many difficulties, domestic and foreign, and to enable me to contemplate the spectacle of amicable and respectful relation between ours and all other governments, and the establishment of constitutional order and tranquility throughout the Union.

FRANKLIN PIERCE.
Washington, Dec. 2, 1856.

The Republican.
L. MATTINGLY, Editor.

PLYMOUTH, IND.
Thursday Morning, Dec. 11, 1856.
FOR PRESIDENT, IN 1860.
JOHN C. FREMONT.
President's Message.

The President's annual message occupies a large portion of our space to day. The copy we used (an extra of the St. Joseph Forum,) was full of blunders, rendering the meaning entirely unintelligible in several instances. We would have taken the trouble to have corrected it in accordance with a more perfect copy received after most of it was in type, but for the contempt felt for the author for debasing the office he fills by making his message, instead of a dignified and impartial statement of facts, a mere partisan communication, full of misstatements, perversions and calumnious charges against the Republican party. Had we taken time to have read it before putting it in type, we should have hesitated to publish it, had we not rejected it entirely. We regard it as mean in the President to take advantage of the custom of political papers, to fill Republican papers with Locofoco slang, under cover of a Presidential message. If he thought to gain any party advantage thereby, it will prove a signal failure. Republicans are too well informed, and entertain too correct an estimate of his true character to be misled by his false statements. In the language of the Chicago Tribune: "His facts are such as partisan use. Its arguments are those that stump orator, in the heat of an active and exciting campaign would hurl at the head of his opponents. Its assumptions and misstatements—and they are many and serious—are those that Franklin Pierce, the electioneer in New Hampshire, would resort to for the purpose of winning votes. Its omissions, like the omissions in a political harangue, comprehend all the facts which would endanger his purpose. Its falsifications, gross and palpable, are the falsifications of a politician, not the misapprehensions of a statesman. But such as it is we are bound to accept it, and be thankful that it is the last from that source; though we are denied the gratification of hoping for any material improvement for four years yet to come."

It was to be expected that the Kansas-Nebraska policy, into which Pierce and his party were forced immediately after his inauguration, would receive a large share of the President's attention in the communication before us. It is the rock upon which he split; it is the fact that will make him detestable to all honest men in our future history, as he is now to a majority of his countrymen in the Free States. But it was too much to hope that he would approach the discussion with any ordinary degree of fairness; or that he would not distort and pervert, in the grossest manner, the history of events happening almost beneath the eyes of every man who will read the libels that he has deliberately penned. We are not disappointed in his course. The Messages which have preceded this, in which the affairs of Kansas have been considered, have prepared us for the wanton violations of truth, the dangerous

assumptions, the sneaking treacheries and the malignant partisanship with which this document is filled. We are only astonished at his audacity in sending to the country, as a State paper, to become a part of our national history, this glaring and palpable evidence that the accusations of his enemies are bottomed on truth—that he has neither sagacity as a statesman, ability as a politician, or ordinary veracity as a gentleman. But with the record of the last four years,—its treasuries to constitutional freedom, and its wanton, arbitrary and long sustained defiance of popular right—before us, what more or what else had we a right to expect? Can a leopard change his spots?

"We are at loss for language in which to properly characterize this Message as it deserves. If we had the time and space to dissect it—to pull it to pieces little by little—a plain Anglo-Saxon negative, more emphatic than polite, would be the most proper answer to its grossest parts; but the courtesies of our craft and the proprieties of political discussion do not permit us to apply to the language of the Chief Magistrate of Republic, the epithet that it incontestably deserves. We hand it and its author over to the judgment of our readers, assured that they will agree with us when we say that since the inauguration of our government, no such document has ever before emanated from the occupant of the Presidential chair. Other Messages may have been written with a partisan purpose—may have been dictated by motives far below those which should animate and exalt the Executive head of a great nation like ours—but we believe that to Franklin Pierce will hereafter belong the infamy of being the first of the President's to arraign a half of his countrymen as traitors, and to designate their constitutional political action as a treasonable attempt to "usurp the control of the government of the United States." As he is the first so may he be the last. His Administration—distinguished only for its faithlessness to whatever is good, and its fostering care of whatever is bad, in our institutions—for its disorders, its flagrant oppressions and criminal abuses, at home, and for its disgraces abroad—is about to expire—to become a part of the history of our country,—and we can safely afford to put in abeyance the political animosities which it has aroused, knowing as we do that this generation will not cease to direct public affairs, before that Administration, its nominal head and its chief supporters will be consigned to the infamy which they labored so zealously to earn. Justice to Franklin Pierce—using his last Message as accuser and witness—is all that his bitterest enemy could ask."

The Democrat, published in this place, characterizes our language in reference to pious Jesse Wright and a certain individual known by the name of A. P. Willard, a couple of weeks since, as "more appropriate for a 'black-guard,' or a 'ballot-box stuffer' to use, than a person who claims to be a gentleman." With all due deference to the superior refinement of the editor, and the aristocratic Court-house clique, who assist in the editorial management of the Democrat, besides making due allowance for their partisan partiality toward those persons, (our conscience will not allow us to say gentlemen,) we must beg leave to differ with him. The stations they occupy is all that entitles them to the least respect from Republicans. Can we entertain less than loathing and contempt for men who knowingly and willfully misrepresented the principles of the Republican party on every occasion during the past canvass, and who let no occasion pass to abuse and slander every prominent Republican in the country? We have not forgotten the stupendous lies these men manufactured, and the villainies they practiced in order to defraud mankind of their unalienable rights and secure success for the slave oligarchy, to whom they have sold themselves and the party.

It affords us no gratification to be compelled to speak thus of any one, but the perils which menace our free institutions, impels us to speak of traitors and hold them up before the people in their true colors. The aristocratic Jews, no doubt, thought the Savior a dirty "black-guard" when he called them a "generation of vipers," "whited sepulchres," &c. Bully Brooks held a similar opinion of the gifted and eloquent Sumner, for speaking in defence of human liberty, and characterizing the degrading and brutalizing institution of human slavery in heinous terms. Pierce entertains like sentiments towards every lover of freedom in Kansas, and thinks they ought to be persecuted, imprisoned, shot and quartered for their presumption. Jo Wright and Willard denounce every man opposed to the extension of slavery as an abolitionist and disunionist. Every Democrat in Congress votes to sustain and enforce the odious and tyrannical laws enacted for the benefit of slavery by a bogus legislature elected by border ruffians, and the Marshall County Democrat defended and justified them all in their course. Birds of a feather will flock together.

JOHN C. FREMONT.

President's Message.

The President's annual message occupies a large portion of our space to day. The copy we used (an extra of the St. Joseph Forum,) was full of blunders, rendering the meaning entirely unintelligible in several instances. We would have taken the trouble to have corrected it in accordance with a more perfect copy received after most of it was in type, but for the contempt felt for the author for debasing the office he fills by making his message, instead of a dignified and impartial statement of facts, a mere partisan communication, full of misstatements, perversions and calumnious charges against the Republican party. Had we taken time to have read it before putting it in type, we should have hesitated to publish it, had we not rejected it entirely. We regard it as mean in the President to take advantage of the custom of political papers, to fill Republican papers with Locofoco slang, under cover of a Presidential message. If he thought to gain any party advantage thereby, it will prove a signal failure. Republicans are too well informed, and entertain too correct an estimate of his true character to be misled by his false statements. In the language of the Chicago Tribune: "His facts are such as partisan use. Its arguments are those that stump orator, in the heat of an active and exciting campaign would hurl at the head of his opponents. Its assumptions and misstatements—and they are many and serious—are those that Franklin Pierce, the electioneer in New Hampshire, would resort to for the purpose of winning votes. Its omissions, like the omissions in a political harangue, comprehend all the facts which would endanger his purpose. Its falsifications, gross and palpable, are the falsifications of a politician, not the misapprehensions of a statesman. But such as it is we are bound to accept it, and be thankful that it is the last from that source; though we are denied the gratification of hoping for any material improvement for four years yet to come."

It was to be expected that the Kansas-Nebraska policy, into which Pierce and his party were forced immediately after his inauguration, would receive a large share of the President's attention in the communication before us. It is the rock upon which he split; it is the fact that will make him detestable to all honest men in our future history, as he is now to a majority of his countrymen in the Free States. But it was too much to hope that he would approach the discussion with any ordinary degree of fairness; or that he would not distort and pervert, in the grossest manner, the history of events happening almost beneath the eyes of every man who will read the libels that he has deliberately penned. We are not disappointed in his course. The Messages which have preceded this, in which the affairs of Kansas have been considered, have prepared us for the wanton violations of truth, the dangerous

assumptions, the sneaking treacheries and the malignant partisanship with which this document is filled. We are only astonished at his audacity in sending to the country, as a State paper, to become a part of our national history, this glaring and palpable evidence that the accusations of his enemies are bottomed on truth—that he has neither sagacity as a statesman, ability as a politician, or ordinary veracity as a gentleman. But with the record of the last four years,—its treasuries to constitutional freedom, and its wanton, arbitrary and long sustained defiance of popular right—before us, what more or what else had we a right to expect? Can a leopard change his spots?

"We are at loss for language in which to properly characterize this Message as it deserves. If we had the time and space to dissect it—to pull it to pieces little by little—a plain Anglo-Saxon negative, more emphatic than polite, would be the most proper answer to its grossest parts; but the courtesies of our craft and the proprieties of political discussion do not permit us to apply to the language of the Chief Magistrate of Republic, the epithet that it incontestably deserves. We hand it and its author over to the judgment of our readers, assured that they will agree with us when we say that since the inauguration of our government, no such document has ever before emanated from the occupant of the Presidential chair. Other Messages may have been written with a partisan purpose—may have been dictated by motives far below those which should animate and exalt the Executive head of a great nation like ours—but we believe that to Franklin Pierce will hereafter belong the infamy of being the first of the President's to arraign a half of his countrymen as traitors, and to designate their constitutional political action as a treasonable attempt to "usurp the control of the government of the United States." As he is the first so may he be the last. His Administration—distinguished only for its faithlessness to whatever is good, and its fostering care of whatever is bad, in our institutions—for its disorders, its flagrant oppressions and criminal abuses, at home, and for its disgraces abroad—is about to expire—to become a part of the history of our country,—and we can safely afford to put in abeyance the political animosities which it has aroused, knowing as we do that this generation will not cease to direct public affairs, before that Administration, its nominal head and its chief supporters will be consigned to the infamy which they labored so zealously to earn. Justice to Franklin Pierce—using his last Message as accuser and witness—is all that his bitterest enemy could ask."

The Democrat, published in this place, characterizes our language in reference to pious Jesse Wright and a certain individual known by the name of A. P. Willard, a couple of weeks since, as "more appropriate for a 'black-guard,' or a 'ballot-box stuffer' to use, than a person who claims to be a gentleman." With all due deference to the superior refinement of the editor, and the aristocratic Court-house clique, who assist in the editorial management of the Democrat, besides making due allowance for their partisan partiality toward those persons, (our conscience will not allow us to say gentlemen,) we must beg leave to differ with him. The stations they occupy is all that entitles them to the least respect from Republicans. Can we entertain less than loathing and contempt for men who knowingly and willfully misrepresented the principles of the Republican party on every occasion during the past canvass, and who let no occasion pass to abuse and slander every prominent Republican in the country? We have not forgotten the stupendous lies these men manufactured, and the villainies they practiced in order to defraud mankind of their unalienable rights and secure success for the slave oligarchy, to whom they have sold themselves and the party.

It affords us no gratification to be compelled to speak thus of any one, but the perils which menace our free institutions, impels us to speak of traitors and hold them up before the people in their true colors. The aristocratic Jews, no doubt, thought the Savior a dirty "black-guard" when he called them a "generation of vipers," "whited sepulchres," &c. Bully Brooks held a similar opinion of the gifted and eloquent Sumner, for speaking in defence of human liberty, and characterizing the degrading and brutalizing institution of human slavery in heinous terms. Pierce entertains like sentiments towards every lover of freedom in Kansas, and thinks they ought to be persecuted, imprisoned, shot and quartered for their presumption. Jo Wright and Willard denounce every man opposed to the extension of slavery as an abolitionist and disunionist. Every Democrat in Congress votes to sustain and enforce the odious and tyrannical laws enacted for the benefit of slavery by a bogus legislature elected by border ruffians, and the Marshall County Democrat defended and justified them all in their course. Birds of a feather will flock together.